



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

TO THE BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Mrs. Frank Galioto
Miss Mildred Stone
Mr. Harold Brotherhood
Mr. Harold Kaplan
Mr. George Welle, President

Foreword

In my first annual report, I should like to acknowledge the understanding and support you have given to me. I have appreciated the free flow of discussion, the careful and deliberate analysis of problems, the willingness to resolve differences, and the sincere devotion to the best interests of our boys and girls which have been displayed in our many meetings.

I appreciate also the splendid services rendered by those in the administrative staff, by other teachers, and by all the other members of our school family. Bloomfield is fortunate in having a school staff which is hard working, loyal and friendly.

The past fourteen months have witnessed more changes in administrative personnel and general organization than have occurred for more than twenty years in the Bloomfield school system. The cooperation of everyone was necessary to make these transitions satisfactorily.

After nine years in state service, I returned to find that boys and girls were still much the same as a decade ago, but that in the junior and senior high schools there was evidence of an increased seriousness of purpose in both faculty and pupils. The competitive pace in business and industry, the increasing difficulty of securing admission to college, the declining number of unskilled jobs, the national re-examination of our role in world affairs—all these are leaving their effects on the thoughts and actions of youth. The supportive influences of religion and family life are more necessary than ever before to decrease the tensions produced in young people by such developments in this critical era. Our schools are challenged to do their utmost in preparing children for an increasingly complex and changing society.

I have enjoyed the experience of meeting and working with Home and School or P.T.A., and with many other community groups. Cooperation between home and school, in formal and informal ways, will become even more important during the next decade. Fortunately, Bloomfield children grow up in neighborhoods with many organizations and associations that develop a sense of stability. Most of our boys and girls have an opportunity to feel at home among friends.

Finally, parents and teachers are pleased that Mayor Steinmann and the Town Council have approved some of the first steps in our proposed building program. Soon we shall have an all-purpose room at Watsessing School, begin to plan for a new high school gymnasium, and look forward to an improved facility at Foley Field for physical education, athletics, and community use. Some of our facilities are a half century or more old, and we shall continue to stress the necessity of mod-

ernizing them to meet the educational needs of today and tomorrow.

FRANK B. STOVER
Superintendent of Schools

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Here are merely a few of the events or developments of significance in the 1959-1960 school year:

Senior High School

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Money from the National Defense Education Act which was made available to the Guidance Department, provided additional equipment and materials which have been of assistance to the counselors.

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test was offered by the College Entrance Examination Board last fall. It was introduced in response to the interest shown by schools in a low cost, conveniently, nationally accepted test of the scholastic abilities required to do college work. Two hundred eighty-seven (287) took this test. Two seniors made the highest scores possible on the Achievement Tests of the College Boards in March of their senior year.

The number in the graduation class was the largest in the history of the school. This meant that a greater number of pupils applied to college than had done so previously. The competition for admission to college was more rigorous than in past years. Strong candidates were turned away by a number of colleges. Many candidates were discouraged in considering some colleges because of increasing college costs. Approximately thirty-five percent of our graduates will be college freshmen in September.

LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

English

Remedial or developmental reading was provided for two hundred forty-five (245) pupils, with special attention given to College Preparatory pupils.

All juniors had a unit in vocational guidance under the joint direction of the teachers of English III, the librarians and the Guidance Department.

Foreign Language

A five-year project in French in Center School was completed this year under the direction of a high school French teacher, assisted each year by selected senior girls.

In August, two Latin students will attend the Classical League Convention at the University of New Mexico.

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Under Title III of the National Defense Education Act, the Bloomfield school system received a grant of about \$6,000 from the federal government for the purchase of science equipment. The major portion of this was allocated to the elementary schools, where science equipment was urgently needed. The senior high school utilized about \$1,200 of this fund for science

materials. Application is being made for continued participation in this program next year.

Two additional rooms were made available in the high school for the teaching of science this year. Room 402 and 417 are equipped for demonstration work, but not for individual laboratory work by the pupils. The need for these additional rooms was due to a high science enrollment which former facilities could not handle. These rooms are being used for the teaching of practical chemistry and physical science.

The six-year integrated mathematics program (grades 7-12) has completed its second year of operation. Its major differences from our previous program are the inclusion of some new material, the reallocation of topics in their time sequence, a more modern approach in presentation, and stronger integration between grade levels. In this program, integration is the most important problem. Three meetings were held this year with teachers of the grade levels concerned, in an effort to improve correlation of the mathematics of these grades.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Social Science Department for the second successive year has published summer reading bibliographies for each student in high group classes in United States History I and United States History II. This department has, in addition to sets of standard text books, more than sixty sets of booklets and pamphlets for supplementary reading.

RELATED ARTS DEPARTMENT

Fine Arts

One of our seniors received a scholarship to attend New York University Scholarship Painting Workshop for high school seniors. She was one of nineteen students from the metropolitan area including three from New Jersey.

Of the twenty-three seniors in the Art III class, sixteen intend to take further training in art schools and universities in the field of art.

Industrial Arts

Both gas and electric arc welding have been introduced as part of the regular course of study in the high school metals and transportation shop areas.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A record number of 636 boys and girls took part in intramural activities. Modern dance and wrestling were added to the intramural program.

Two cars were used this year for Behind-the-Wheel Training, increasing the number of students to whom this course could be offered.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The varsity basketball team won the Essex County Basketball Tournament for the fourth time since its innovation fourteen years ago.

Soccer was played for the first time as a varsity sport on the interscholastic level.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS

The high school Key Club, for the second successive year, won first place in New Jersey among the high school Key Clubs. Further, the Key Club presented to Bloomfield High School a new fifty star United States flag to be used as the outdoor flag for 1960-61.

The high school drop-out rate of 5 1/3 percent for the class of June 1960, as of May 1, 1960, is evidence of purposeful curriculum well administered. It is also evidence of good school spirit and cooperation between teachers and pupils.

South Junior High School

GUIDANCE

Probably one of the most important things the Guidance counselors at North and South Junior High Schools did this year was their work with the Differential Aptitude Tests. A necessary part of their job is to serve as educational and vocational counselors. The additional information obtained from this survey or test of many of the skills and abilities of our ninth grade pupils has helped parents and pupils themselves to arrive at judgments about their capacities to learn in certain areas. This study and use of the Differential Aptitude Tests has been invaluable in helping the counselors to work with classroom teachers in understanding the capabilities of individual pupils and groups. These tests give clues to student's probable success in such areas as mechanical ability, abstract reasoning, mathematical ability, etc.

INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

A program of intramural sports, as established at South Junior High School, will give pupils knowledge and some skill in a variety of sports. The boy or girl is taught the same, not for championship skill but rather to achieve the ability to play the game well and provide some competitive skill.

In the South Junior High the boys participate in touch football, basketball, and softball, while the girls' activities in-

clude soccer, archery, volley ball, bowling, swimming, shuffleboard, quoits, etc. In addition, there are opportunities for mixed programs of boys and girls playing together in such activities as table tennis, badminton, and shuffle-board.

SEVENTH GRADE LANGUAGE

Because we have represented in our staff fluency in several languages, we have been able to give seventh graders as individual oral tests twice a year to see if they are able to carry on a simple conversation in the language they are studying. Results have been very satisfactory almost without an exception. If the recommended purchases are made for next year, including tapes and playback machines, our foreign language program should improve considerably over the next three or four years.

ALGEBRA II

The results of the cooperative test in Algebra II show our selected ninth graders ranking equal to or higher than a selected eleventh grade class. However, further study must be given to the ninth grade math course for our more able students in a complete seven through twelfth grade sequence.

LIBRARY SERVICE AND NEEDS

The basis of our entire library program in the South Junior High School is service. The library stands as a materials center for the student body, for the teaching staff and administrators, and even occasionally for parents or other relatives of the students.

As a materials center it includes a wide variety of instructional resources: books, pictures, pamphlets, filmstrips, and phonograph records. As a recreational reading center it offers a rich collection of material for adolescents of all abilities and interests.

In order that the resources of the library may be put constantly to maximum use, it is of vital importance that the library be fully staffed with professionally trained, competent, and inspiring librarians. The librarians, probably more than any other group in the school, work closely with large groups of students and with many teachers, assisting with research, guiding reading, and helping plan and implement the curriculum. The impact of the library is, in this way, vital to the entire school program of studies.

The many library routines (such as cataloging approximately 800 to 1,000 books each year, "weeding" the collection, inventorying the 13,000 books, and keeping statistical records) make a well-trained adequate staff essential.

STUDENT ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

The Student Assembly Committee, appointed by the Student Council, plans and carries out the year's assembly programs. All members of the committee have had some previous experience in producing school programs. This year especially they have exhibited a willingness to serve, and have displayed a generous amount of organizational and creative ability. In addition, they possess the confidence of both pupils and teachers. The many obligations and functions of the committee start with the preparation of a tentative program of assemblies for the year and the assigning of assembly dates to teachers and student groups. Committee personnel give such assistance as is needed in the production of assembly programs. They evaluate all phases of assembly activities for the purpose of improvement, and exercise general supervision of the entire program. Student reaction to assemblies, determined from a rating chart filled out by a sampling of the attending homerooms, is calculated, scored, and recorded on a publicized chart.

With thorough organization as a goal, this committee plans informative, educational, and interesting programs, emphasizing proper balance in program selection. Students and faculty are encouraged to prepare and to participate in assemblies, and the entire enrollment is motivated to develop a wholesome and desirable attitude whenever they are a part of the student body audience.

North Junior High

North Junior High School in its first year has achieved a full range educational program. Pupils were satisfactorily accommodated at all educational levels. Implied in this is provision for the bright, average and slow child.

The academic program included a special spelling class for ninth grade college-bound youngsters, for pupils deficient in this skill. Next year, we hope to expand the basic skills program to help upgrade pupils deficient in mathematics, grammar, and spelling.

The school library opened early in the year, and at the present time has a complement of 4,200 books and supplies a full range of library services. This includes reference area, picture file, pamphlet file, and audio-visual aids equipment. The library was open daily from 8:15 A.M. until 4:30 P.M.

The Student Council and the club programs were started at the outset of the school year. The Student Council has sponsored several school projects for the improvement of the

school, as well as sponsoring two school dances. The club program involved thirty-five activities; included in these were dramatic, hobby, creative writing groups and a boys' chef club.

The assembly programs have been conducted weekly. To a great extent, the programs are outgrowths of the classroom and activity programs.

The athletic program involved both intramural and varsity sports. In intramurals, activities have been provided during all three seasons for boys and girls. The playfields around the school have been a most important factor in building the intramural program. Among the activities in which girls took part were archery, swimming, bowling, field hockey and softball. Football, basketball and baseball were the major sports for the boys. Our girls participated in several play days with other schools and have been active in the New Jersey Girls' Athletic Association. Varsity sports for the boys included complete schedules in football, basketball and baseball.

During the planning stages (1956-1959) of North Junior High School, the focus was placed on opening the school as a completely functioning unit from the very outset. The combined efforts of the staff made it possible to achieve this goal.

In the Guidance area, considerable stress was placed on subject selection in regards to vocational goals. All ninth grade students attended special programs at which Essex County Vocational School and Montclair Society of Engineers representatives spoke. This has resulted in fifteen pupils transferring to the Essex County Vocational and Technical High Schools.

Elementary Schools

This year was marked by the retirement of Mr. James K. Walklet, principal of Berkeley School, and Dr. Merrill A. Bigelow, principal of Brookside and Franklin Schools. These men have served the Bloomfield schools well in various capacities for many years. Their contributions as educational leaders have left a definite influence on the school system.

Upon Mr. Walklet's retirement, Mr. Edgar Powell was transferred to Berkeley School. Mr. John J. Scially assumed the principalship of Center School as well as Fairview School. Dr. Leslie H. Willis became the principal of Center Annex. As of June 1960, seven out of eleven elementary schools have had new principals appointed during the past two years, and in addition to these changes, one new junior high school principal and one vice-principal were appointed. Our new administrators have taken up their duties with enthusiasm and have shown commendable progress in the dispatch of their duties.

District lines for Demarest, Brookside and Franklin Schools were changed, in order to avoid the virtual certainty that an addition to Demarest School would otherwise be required. It now appears that no new elementary school building, other than all-purpose rooms, will be required in the foreseeable future, provided the former Colgate tract is not developed as a one or two family housing project.

Hours for opening and dismissal were made uniform for all elementary schools. The principal reason for this action was the increased flow of traffic throughout the town, making it advisable for all children to travel back and forth together.

Franklin and Brookside Schools have a new kindergarten booklet for parents who send children to school for the first time. Coupled with a kindergarten visitation program, this development is a fine example of helping children get off to a good start.

Brookdale School has developed a new curriculum guide and teacher policy guide. The Parent Library Committee has begun work on a picture and pamphlet file which should provide good resources for the faculty.

Watsessing School has set up a program for improvement of library use. Trips taken by elementary students in this school were illustrative of this program throughout the system, and included: Bronx Zoo; Museum of Morristown; Museum Village of Monroe, New York; United Nations Building; Boat trip around Manhattan; Bear Mountain; West Point; Independent Press; Brookdale Beverage Company, and the Annin Flag Company.

Oak View School introduced the Science Reading Laboratory as part of a program to improve reading skills, and completed a new curriculum guide for its staff.

A weekly bulletin "Fairviewing on T.V." was sent home with each pupil at Fairview School, in addition to weekly viewing of Channel 11 science programs at school.

Carteret School placed major emphasis on development of language arts. The school studied carefully the results of Iowa Achievement tests of three upper grades, and an attempt was made to concentrate on individual problems. Other efforts were made to stimulate personal interest in more library use such as celebration of Library Week, posters and displays of books, book fairs, etc.

Forest Glen School has developed a new curriculum guide for its teachers. Stress has been laid on creativity, teacher planning and pupil activity.

An arithmetic experiment, checking the most effective methods of instruction, is underway at Demarest School.

Physical Improvements in the Schools

The most noticeable change in the Bloomfield school plant was the opening of the new North Junior High School in September 1959. Fortunately, the building was completed in time for the beginning of the term, and the staff and pupils cooperated in making the school operate without any noticeable difficulty in transition. The school received favorable commendation from the visiting team of a group from the State Department of Education. Full scheduling of course offerings, as well as clubs and co-curricular activities have been in operation since the opening of school. The relieving of overcrowding in South Junior High School has enabled that school to operate under conditions of less stress, with a noticeable improvement in the educational atmosphere of the building.

Major repairs included the complete re-roofing of three schools, Brookdale, Watsessing, and Berkeley, some of which have had the original roofs for over fifty years. Toilet rooms were rehabilitated at eight schools, Caretet, Berkeley, Watsessing, Fairview, Center, Brookside, Brookdale, and Franklin. As an emergency measure, a new gymnasium floor was installed in the Senior High School boys' gymnasium, together with the re-roofing of that addition. Forest Glen playground was opened for the first time. There as a long deferred renovation and relocation of the offices in the Administration Building which will continue into the next year. Major painting included one-half of the Senior High School, one-half of South Junior High School, and one-half of Carteret School. The painting program for the next year (summer 1960) will be stepped up considerably to attempt to set a regular painting cycle.

Central food preparation for three secondary schools, which is located in the Senior High School, continues to be a noticeably successful operation. We have had visitors from this state and many other states who were impressed by the food, as well as the efficiency. This is the only operation of its kind in northern New Jersey. Much of the credit for success goes to Mrs. Alstein and her staff. Next year we plan to tie in food service at Center Annex School with this central operation.

General

Following the appointment of Mr. Norman L. Claxton as vice-principal of South Junior High School, there was a reorganization of health service. Mr. Joseph M. Bogusz was appointed Coordinator of Health, Safety and Physical Education, comprising the non-medical phases of this program, and serves in this capacity on a half-time basis. Miss Helen Flannery was appointed Senior School Nurse, and assigned one day a week for coordinating dental and medical services in the schools. Dr. Kenneth Crater was appointed Senior School Medical Inspector, and is principal consultant on medical policies. The new organization seems to be functioning exceedingly well, and it is the consensus that medical policy development has been strengthened.

By the adoption of new board of education policies, all pupils attending our schools in 1960-61 must be immunized against smallpox, diphtheria, and polio.

Dr. Harold Feldman recently presented talks on the relationship of tobacco and lung cancer in the Senior High School and South Junior High School. The program was well received.

This year, through the cooperation of Mr. Bogusz and the Bloomfield Police Department, the D.R.A.L.L. Driver Club was founded (Drive Right and Live Longer). The purpose is to promote a better attitude toward safe driving.

Preparation of a new physical education handbook and educational guide was begun during the year, and this should be ready for distribution within another year.

This year an additional visiting teacher, Mrs. Edith F. Winick, joined our staff. The responsibilities of Mrs. Winick and Mrs. Osborne can be shown in the breakdown of tabulations in their annual summary: 876 home visits, 56 parent conferences, 487 teacher conferences, 283 administrative conferences, 180 student conferences, and innumerable telephone calls. In addition to the chronic problems of truancy and tardiness, most of their work is concerned with the problems of emotionally and socially maladjusted pupils. In such cases, the home and school are both deeply involved, and unfortunately in serious cases the police, courts, and/or other social agencies also enter into the picture. Both persons work closely with our Child Guidance personnel, as well as with county and area clinics.

A parallel service is that of speech therapy instruction by two specialists serving the elementary schools during the past year. 253 children received individual or group therapy. A survey was also made of potential needs at the junior school level, and decision on serving this age group awaits further observation of the results obtained at the elementary level.

Dr. Leslie H. Willis was appointed Director of Testing, as a part of the expanded guidance program made possible by the

National Defense Education Act. As a result, the differential aptitude tests were administered to both junior high schools and have proved a valuable aid to counselors, pupils and parents. We have increased the mechanical scoring service for many tests, thereby releasing counselor and teacher for other purposes. For the first time a general screening test in reading has been applied to all third grade pupils, to provide more precise placement in the remedial reading program or specialized groupings. A general achievement test has been reintroduced into the eighth grade, and important implications for curriculum have resulted from its use. During the spring, elementary children with extremely high I.Q.'s at one grade level were rescreened and given individual intelligence tests.

The Child Guidance Department has been reorganized on a "team" basis, working with the Assistant Superintendent in Charge of Instruction and the Director of Child Guidance. The supervisors in special areas, as well as psychologists, visiting teachers and remedial teachers have been involved in discussions of general policies and procedures.

Supervisory Services

One of the outstanding developments of last year was the splendid progress made in elementary science. Mr. Andrew J. Peters, our elementary science teacher and recently elected vice-president of the New Jersey Science Teachers' Association, was an inspiration for most of our teachers from kindergarten through the sixth grade. He introduced a planned sequential science program based upon introducing basic principles, with accumulating experiences, at each grade level. Undoubtedly, this program will have far-reaching effects upon secondary science programs. \$4,000 worth of new equipment was obtained through the National Defense Education Act for the first time, allowing laboratory experience in our elementary schools.

At the request of the Superintendent, Dr. Cason undertook a cooperative evaluation of the remedial reading program. As a result, there will be a uniform procedure for intake of students, recording of results, and re-testing, providing valuable information for teachers and the student in his later years. As of next year, this program will be concentrated in grades four through six with only persistent non-reader problems handled in the earlier grades. Several of the remedial teachers attended clinics and conferences out-of-state, which proved helpful to the entire group.

Miss I. Ann Beebe was not secured to replace Miss Barbara Olson, as elementary library consultant, until January. She brings to Bloomfield a fine background in school, college and county library service. This year Miss Beebe began an expanded program of training parent volunteers. In addition, she gave library instruction to forty-two sixth grades, and supervised the processing of more than 4,000 books. During the summer of 1960, she will begin the processing of professional library books for teachers in the school system.

Our elementary helping teacher was charged with the task of assisting nearly sixty non-tenure teachers in the elementary schools. This involved more than one hundred visits plus conferences, and innumerable requests for materials and general items these teachers requested. Next year twenty-eight new teachers will join our staff in the elementary schools, and will be grateful for the same type of help.

In the related arts field, we note the expansion of a welding program at the Senior High School. This program has proved to be popular, and with the additional help of an instructor to receive experience next summer, more boys will be able to participate in this activity. North Junior High School introduced the teaching of electricity, and this is to be followed up with further work next year at the Senior High School.

Dr. Ward Moore, from Montclair State College, consulted with the administrators and teachers on the instrumental music program. Next year the dual assignment of teaching both vocal and instrumental music will be removed from most of the teachers at the elementary school level, and the staff will be expanded somewhat. We anticipate an improvement in the reading of music by most children, and an expanded instrumental program, with greater variety of instrumentation.

An additional part-time elementary art teacher will also be added to render the same amount of service available before the opening of North Junior High School.

The Superintendent and/or the Assistant Superintendent in Charge of Instruction observed all first year teachers and all teachers who were to go under tenure. Numerous conferences were also required because of the large number of additions in the system. Meetings for principals and other administrators were placed on a pattern somewhat different from preceding years.

Overall Supervision and Instruction

A number of important committees formed during the year including the following: Report Card, Guidance, Foreign Language, Reading, and Long-term Planning. Articulation meetings of these secondary schools were held in the fields of guidance, math, science, and social science.

A foreign language committee visited a great many high schools to observe language laboratories and to discuss the operation with instructors. It has recommended the introduction of a laboratory in the Senior High School as early as 1961-62. It does not recommend the extension of the foreign language plan in the elementary schools at the present time, which concurs with the recommendation of Dr. Conant. We have made every effort in hiring new language teachers to discover those who have considerable fluency in the spoken language.

The Assistant Superintendent and various principals made visits to thirty-three colleges and universities. Over seven hundred applications from teachers were received. More than three hundred and twenty-five interviews were held to fill sixty-four positions. In these interviews it was customary for at least two or three members of the staff to be present. The teacher selection in Bloomfield in a serious process, since it is our belief that finding good teachers is one of the most critical areas of school administration.

BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1959 - 1960

Total Average Enrollment.....	7641.0
School Buildings Operated.....	*16
Supervisors and Principals.....	21
Teachers—Full-time	388
Part-time	27
Other Employees (full and part-time).....	150
Day School Cost Per Pupil in Total Average Enrollment.....	\$482.40
Day School Expenditures..... without new buildings, etc.)	\$3,686,019.62

* New North Junior High School opened
September 1959.

Some Future Goals

In planning curricular developments, the administration and staff have established some desirable goals:

The general improvement of reading and study skills, in all subjects and all grades; special emphasis to be placed on beginning developmental programs of reading at the junior high school level.

Strengthening the teaching of arithmetic in elementary schools through experimentation in method and grouping; continuing to modernize the mathematics program at the secondary level in line with the plan proposed by the College Examination Board.

Articulation of science programs K-12, with further study of the sequence of scientific concepts at the junior high school level.

Strengthening the aural-oral method in foreign language, both by adding teachers with special preparation, and by using audio visual aids including a language laboratory.

In the social studies, introducing wherever possible more knowledge and understanding of the eastern, near eastern and African peoples and cultures.

Improving the pupils' ability to read music, and striving to coordinate better the instrumental program in line with recommendations of consultants.

Increasing the utilization of school libraries as tools for learning as well as sources of recreational reading.

Placing more emphasis on electricity and electronics in shop programs, and broadening these programs to include some students taking college preparatory courses.

Utilizing test results to greater effect by studying their implications for curricular change.

Improving communication between parents and teachers by cooperative development of report forms and planned conferences at the elementary level.

Re-evaluation of programs for mentally retarded or under-motivated children; consideration of the initiation of some physically handicapped classes in Bloomfield.

Further study of best educational solutions for children with severe emotional maladjustments, including those who cannot be retained in a normal school environment.

Continued development of the guidance program, with renewed emphasis on orienting new staff members in our philosophy and procedures.

If these goals seem to be too ambitious and too inclusive one can only state that we should strive for nothing less than the best. The times cry out for the best possible education for all American children and youth. Working together, we can achieve that here in Bloomfield.

Respectfully submitted,
FRANK B. STOVER
Superintendent of Schools

September 1, 1960